

Arizona Republican's Editorial Page

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TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 12, 1915

They fail, and they alone, who
have not striven.
—Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

The Watchword, Economy.

The second Arizona state legislature gives promise of useful accomplishment, of constructive, helpful law-making. The members generally express themselves as favoring economy, not niggardly, false and, in the end, costly economy, but a conservation of the money which is wrung from the people by the process of taxation. This attitude of the members of the legislature appears in their disposition to let economy begin at home—in the very houses of the legislature—by the avoiding of needless expense in the business of legislation.

There is also apparent a disposition by a majority of the members in the matter of appropriations, to hold down expenditures in all departments of the government on which the legislature can lay a controlling hand, to hold down expenditures to such as may be absolutely necessary. This is the fine contradistinction to the temper two years ago, when it was more or less publicly advertised that the railroads and the mines were to be heavily levied upon, so that there would be plenty of money for all. All were thereby invited to make extraordinary demands for appropriations, with the result that the taxes on all classes of property were measurably increased.

For some years we have been trying to collect the largest possible sums of money without taking heed to their wise and useful expenditure. We have given more thought to the subject of taxation than to the subject of expenditure. We are realizing now that the thing to do is to see how little money we can get along with, without impairing the efficiency of government, than to see how much we can possibly raise to be spent in useless or extravagant salaries or to be otherwise frittered away.

The whole country is experiencing the need of retrenchment in the private affairs of its citizens. It is proper that retrenchment should be made in our public affairs, for all public money is contributed by private citizens. Waste is waste, whether it be public or private.

We congratulate the legislature on its evident determination to stop waste.

"The Case of Belgium."

One of the many unusual features of the European war is the effort which has been made almost from the beginning, by all the belligerents to set themselves right in the tribunal of the nations, the United States being apparently regarded by them as the chief justice. The charges against Germany center about its conduct in Belgium, whose neutrality it is claimed, Germany invaded. We do not see what these charges and counter charges, these white papers, blue papers, orange papers, red and other lined papers have to do with the war.

The only really pertinent paper we have seen on the subject is by George Bernard Shaw, a Briton, presenting "The Case of Belgium." His rather vitriolic remarks are not directed against Germany, but against Englishmen and Frenchmen, whom he partially blames for the invasion of Belgium neutrality and whom he wholly blames for having done nothing to relieve Belgium. It is true, Mr. Shaw says, that all England and France resound with praises of the patriotism and courage of the Belgians. "If," said he, "I was to say to a Belgian that fine words butter no parsnips, he would wonder what on earth I meant. That is perhaps fortunate, for if ever a nation had reason to remind the world of that saying it is the Belgian nation at the present crisis."

"We must confess," continues Mr. Shaw, speaking for Englishmen and Frenchmen, "that though Belgium has saved us we have not saved Belgium."

There are some who believe that Belgium's resistance of German passage through its territory was fool-hardy, a natural provocation of the disasters which have fallen upon the country. It would have been easy to accept the German proposition for a hurried march through the kingdom and to pay handsomely for all damages inflicted throughout. But Mr. Shaw points out that Belgium was between the devil and the deep sea and at present appears to have made a bad choice. England had notified Belgium that failure to resist the German advance would be regarded by the allies as "an act of war." If Belgium had disregarded the threat it would be now a smiling land and the devastation which has wasted the country would be eating out the heart of France.

Says Mr. Shaw:

At the battle of Waterloo the British lay down snugly behind the ridge, and placed the Belgian baggage on the exposed forward slope of it to be hammered to pieces by the terrible cannonade and then cut to ribbons by the charges that routed our own artillery. And some English writers were not ashamed to disparage Belgian valor because British squares stood up to the charges at the top of the hill when the uncovered Belgian brigade fell before a hail of cannon balls. No Belgian then complained of being allotted the post of danger; it was his right on his own soil to claim it.

History repeated itself at Liege. There, too, Belgium was at the post of danger. There she held the bridge for the whole west of Europe against Prussia, and never once looked back to ask, "Where are the French and British?" Where, indeed? Alas! it was a long way to Tientsin; and what were Napoleon's twelve-pounders and twenty-four pounders to the Kaiser's howitzers that shot from impossible distances could blow whole forts into the sky? Well, all the generals of Britain and France have since come into the field, but none of them can yet claim the laurel of the mathematician of Liege who called his admiring captors to witness that he had been taken alive only because he had been taken insensible. To his magnificent warriorship even the Prussians took off their hats. Nothing that we can say about it can pay our debt to it.

For I repeat, France and Britain did not save Belgium. Liege fell, Brussels has fallen, and Antwerp, Ghent, Bruges and Ostend, Louvain has been sacked more scientifically than Ilium by Saururus; towns like Termonde have had the fiery chariot of war driven to and fro over their corpses until they are three chains, like the dead in a har's story; and the Belgian government has been driven out into a foreign land. What worse could have happened to Belgium had she stood alone against the world? Well may her enemy laugh to scorn "the scrap of paper" that guaranteed her integrity. It will be time enough for Belgium's friends to revile Germany for that when they have made the scrap of paper good.

Here is a scathing suggestion: "If, after this, one Belgian goes without a full meal whilst thousands of hapless are living in luxury from Canterbury to San Francisco and from Biarritz to Venice, there is really nothing more to be said for mankind."

We do not know at whose instance or for what purpose Mr. Shaw wrote "The Case of Belgium," but his paper has been given wide world circulation by the Commission for Relief in Belgium, and is the most powerful appeal, or, as Mr. Shaw says, "claim" for Belgium yet offered.

THE EXPLOIT OF B-11

One of the nameless British fleet, identified only by a capital letter and a number—a submarine in short—has performed an exploit such as the annals of sea warfare afford no previous example of. B-11 is entitled to an added verse in the song of the submarines, which the Journal republished yesterday from the London Spectator, celebrating the triumphs or tragedies of "gallant and daring" E-9, E-3 and D-5.

"Would we had found for you,
Brave little fleet!
Names of high ground for you,
Good to repeat."

Fortunately for history and proud memories the young captains attached to the nameless fleet have names. It was one Lieutenant Commander Holbrook who guided B-11 through and under as many as five rows of mines, laid across the Dardanelles, in order to get the Turkish warship Messoudieh, cruising about in security—except against a very daring submarine.

The boldness and skill in underwater navigation displayed by Holbrook can be better appreciated if we recall that in the roomy North Sea, the other day, a submarine was destroyed by collision with a mine.

Much of the glory of the war so far has gone to the submarines of Germany and Britain. Apparently underwater heroism is not the exclusive property of any one nation—Providence Journal.

A GOOD RIDDANCE

Little Willie had been permitted to enter the sick room to view the small stranger who had arrived a few days before. He looked the little one over with the disapproval natural to a deposed monarch. The nurse brought the boy's bath tub and filled it with water. Then she started unwinding the baby's outer shell, preparatory to bathing, while Willie stood by watching the procedure with interest. Suddenly the light of understanding illumined his face and he rushed to the door.

"Hey, sis!" he shrieked down the stairs, "come on up, quick, they're going to drown it!"—National Monthly.

BE KIND TO THIS ANIMAL

The class was discussing cruelty to animals and the humane society. "Now children, who can think of one thing the society has done to make the life of the dumb brutes easier?" the teacher asked.

"I know," spoke out a ten-year-old girl. "I heard papa say people couldn't run blind tigers any more."

FAR FROM IT

Talk may be cheap,
But, bless my soul!
Not this: "Send up
A ton of coal!"
—New York Tribune.

GEORGIE'S LEASH

"Mother (at the breakfast table)—You always ought to use your napkin, Georgie."
Georgie—I am using it, mother; I've got the dog tied to the leg of the table with it.—Christian Register.

THEIR FAULTS

Ted—A genius very seldom amounts to anything outside his own particular field.
Ned—That's so. Chaucer couldn't spell, while Shakespeare's handwriting was almost the limit.—Judge.

ECONOMY SHOWN IN REPORT OF CITY MANAGER

(Continued From Page One)

for an extended length of time. But 1913, as a fair basis of comparison with the period beginning July 1, 1914, and ending December 31, 1914, the figures of which are as follows:

TABLE NO. 1 DISBURSEMENTS 1913			
	Total Disbursements	Interest Fund	Net Amount of Administration Expenses
July	31,156.97		31,156.97
Aug.	29,919.82		29,919.82
Sept.	33,906.23		33,906.23
Oct.	26,694.51		26,694.51
Nov.	32,110.82	22,568.78	29,542.04
Dec.	35,329.09		35,329.09
Totals	209,121.44	22,568.78	186,552.65

TABLE NO. 2 DISBURSEMENTS 1914			
	Total Disbursements	Interest Fund	Net Amount of Administration Expenses
July	30,576.91	780.00	29,596.91
Aug.	25,444.04	14.34	25,429.70
Sept.	21,441.72	278.27	21,163.45
Oct.	24,530.42	321.59	24,208.83
Nov.	15,591.25	19,531.00	25,609.12
Dec.	34,750.45	215.09	34,535.36
Totals	202,534.79	21,142.20	181,392.59

TABLE NO. 3 GROSS EXPENDITURES 1913			
	Gross Expenditures	Decrease	Increase
July	31,156.97	29,576.91	1,580.06
Aug.	29,919.82	25,444.04	4,475.78
Sept.	33,906.23	21,441.72	12,464.51
Oct.	26,694.51	24,530.42	2,164.09
Nov.	32,110.82	15,591.25	16,519.57
Dec.	35,329.09	34,750.45	578.64
Totals	209,121.44	202,534.79	6,586.65

TABLE NO. 4 NET EXPENDITURES 1913			
	Net Expenditures	Decrease	Increase
July	29,596.91	29,576.91	1,580.06
Aug.	25,429.70	25,444.04	4,496.12
Sept.	21,163.45	21,441.72	12,742.78
Oct.	24,208.83	24,530.42	2,083.59
Nov.	25,609.12	15,591.25	10,017.87
Dec.	34,535.36	34,750.45	214.91
Totals	181,392.59	186,552.65	5,160.06

TABLE NO. 5 RECEIPTS 1913			
	Receipts	Increase	Decrease
July	25,478.42	21,974.62	3,503.80
Aug.	14,929.00	20,177.80	5,248.80
Sept.	16,127.11	15,974.47	152.64
Oct.	25,282.16	26,958.55	8,295.61
Nov.	19,415.86	20,957.83	8,935.85
Dec.	19,415.86	26,958.55	13,551.51
Totals	111,155.89	161,209.49	50,053.60

These figures show the following results achieved under the Commission Manager form of government for the first six months of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914:

The actual net saving, exclusive of the amounts expended for bonded interest and in Fire Department improvements, but including all other expenditures of the city, for the first half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, over the first half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1913, is the sum of \$24,621.76 (See Table No. 1).

The bonded indebtedness of the city was largely increased in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1913. The bond issue for widening of streets, public parks, ornamental lighting and for funding floating indebtedness was increased \$275,000, \$125,000 of which was for the purpose of funding floating indebtedness, which represented accumulated outstanding amounts in the conduct of former administrations under the old form of government. So for the first half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, the city had to meet interest upon and provide a sinking fund for \$275,000 more of bonded indebtedness than it did for the same period of the preceding fiscal year. But, even if that interest be included, as shown in the preceding tables, there is still a saving over the corresponding period of 1913 of \$6,586.65 (See Table No. 3).

In no month during this period has there been an increase of expenses over the corresponding month of the year of 1913 under the old form of government, except the month of December, which increase is due, as before stated, to the increased interest payable at that time.

If other months show a decrease of expenditures over the corresponding months of 1913, and if the extra charges for interest be excluded, and only the expenses of administration of government be compared, then every month will show a decrease over the corresponding month for 1913.

It might be well to add, in this connection, that this saving has not been effected by cutting out any necessary forces or activities of the city, but rather by the consolidation and systematization of many of the departments of the city government, and by the finding and plugging of the many little leaks in the purchase of city supplies, administration of city affairs and control of city property, which processes are not yet complete, but are just fairly inaugurated, as heretofore the great mass of work in reorganization of the city's forces to comply with the requirements of the new charter has precluded the possibility of giving so much attention to these details as their importance demands.

In some departments, notably the Street Department and the Police Department, the rapid growth of the city has necessitated increased forces and expenses over the requirements of the preceding years, and which increase will

work have resulted in added efficiency and economy of administration.

In all departments of the city the standard of efficiency has been raised, and a continuous effort is being made to effect therein all economies consistent with the highest efficiency.

The Commission is acquainted with the fact that the city was in serious financial difficulty until the payment of the first installment of the city taxes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, and that many times, owing to the lack of available funds and the charter prohibition against the issue of warrants where no funds are available, and the impossibility of the city borrowing money because of having already exceeded the four per cent. allowed by the Constitution of the State of Arizona, the city was compelled to postpone and delay many needed activities, and improvements, which otherwise could have been more promptly attended to.

During the first half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, the receipts of the city were \$111,155.89 (See Table No. 5), greater than for the corresponding period of 1913. This increase was due in part to the greater returns through the City Court from fines and forfeitures, and in larger measure to the increased attention given to the collection of fees and license taxes.

For the first time in the history of the city, general city taxes have been made payable in semi-annual installments, and only the first installment thereof became due and payable during the first half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914; whereas, in 1913, all city taxes were due and payable during the said period.

Today the city is on a cash basis for the first time in its existence, and on the first day of January, 1915, had cash on hand in the various funds amounting to \$254,501.08, and there was in the General Fund alone the sum of \$89,437.55. And the city can expect to receive during the second half of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, a large amount additional from the fines and forfeitures in the City Court, from the collection of license fees and from the second installment of general city taxes.

The former city government by ordinance fixed the rate of charges to all users of water from the city water works plant, under the present government the charges have remained the same and the receipts therefrom have been used to defray necessary expenses and without using the receipts from the water works department for the necessary expenses of the city government. Between the time the Commission took office and the first installment of general city taxes commenced to be paid in this city could not have run. However, the city is now reasonably assured of sufficient moneys to meet all demands upon the city treasury which can now be reasonably anticipated for the rest of the present fiscal year and for the beginning of the following fiscal year until general city taxes for said fiscal year will be available, without requiring therefor so much assistance from the receipts from the city water works as heretofore. I believe that the city water works should be operated as a means of revenue only so long as it is absolutely necessary so to do, and that as soon as possible the rates for water should be reduced so that they would be no greater than necessary to cover actual cost of maintenance and operation, costs of extensions, replacements due to depreciation, interest upon the bonded indebtedness for the purpose of the same, and a reasonable sinking fund for the retirement of the water works bonds at maturity.

In view of the satisfactory condition of the city's finances at the present time, with a continuation of the present policies and conditions, I believe that for the next fiscal year both the license taxes for the city and the rate of general taxation can be materially reduced, and I believe the time is ripe for a material reduction in water rates, and earnestly recommended that the rates to all users of water from the city water works be immediately reduced twenty per cent.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. FARISH,

City Manager.

NOTICE

CALL FOR BIDS ON COUNTY PRINTING AND PUBLISHING.

Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals will be received at the office of the Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, in the City of Phoenix, Arizona, until 11 o'clock A. M. Wednesday, January 20th, 1915, for County Printing, Publishing and Advertising for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 1915.

FIRST: For publishing the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors. A stated price per inch, to be set in the body type of the paper in which the proceedings are published, one insertion only. Said proceedings will be published within three days after consideration.

ART EXHIBITION—The First Arizona Art Exhibition will be held this afternoon at the Woman's club from 2:30 to 5:30 o'clock. No admission will be charged and the public is cordially invited to attend. If sufficient interest is shown the exhibition will be open again this evening.

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SECOND: For publishing and printing notices of reward, election proclamations. A stated price per inch for such number of times as is required by law, or as may be required by the Board of Supervisors. A stated price per inch for each insertion, set in Body Type of paper, for publishing and printing.

THIRD: For publishing and printing Summons and Notices of Sales in case of delinquent taxes, when same becomes a County charge, and all other public Notices required by the County and the officers thereof that are by law a County charge. A stated price per inch for such numbers of times as is required by law, or as may be required by the Board of Supervisors. A stated price per inch for each insertion set in Body type of paper.

FOURTH: For publishing and printing Summons and Notices of Sales in case of delinquent taxes, when same becomes a County charge, and all other public Notices required by the County and the officers thereof that are by law a County charge. A stated price per inch for such numbers of times as is required by law, or as may be required by the Board of Supervisors. A stated price per inch for each insertion set in Body type of paper.

The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to reject or accept part or all of any bid, or to waive any irregularities in any bid.

Bids will be opened by said Board at its office in the City of Phoenix, Arizona, on Wednesday, January 20, 1915, at 11 o'clock A. M. and thereafter considered.

All bids must be sealed and addressed, Clarence L. Standage, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Phoenix, Arizona, and marked, "Proposal for County Publishing and Printing."

By order of the Board of Supervisors.

CLARENCE L. STANDAGE, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County, Arizona.

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